

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

April 24, 1963

SUBJECT: Recognition of a Cuban Government  
in Exile

QUESTION: Senator Mansfield has proposed that we recognize a Cuban Government in exile if the exiles achieve some measure of unity. What is the US position on the establishment of a Cuban Government in exile?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

The United States continues to recognize the Castro Government, although diplomatic and consular relations with it have been broken. The conduct of such relations has been turned over to the Swiss Government.

Establishment of a government within the sovereign territory of the US or any other country violates the sovereignty unless, of course, the consent of that country is obtained. In the case of the exile governments established in Britain during World War II, the assent of the United Kingdom was given.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

1. In general, US policy towards governments-in-exile is that they should be capable of performing as governments and have roots in the people.
2. We oppose recognition of a Cuban government in exile at the present time, since the people inside Cuba today obviously would have to have a voice in the selection of a successor government once the island is free from its present dictatorial regime.